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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, do not permit negativity to triumph over us. Use our Senators to remind us with their faith and works that the best is yet to be. As they remember that Your mighty power is at work in our Nation and world, may their optimism create a contagion of hope.

Lord, continue to accomplish in our lives infinitely more than we request or imagine. We exalt You, for You continue to rescue us. We trust You to save us though the storms may rage.

We pray in Your glorious Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 18, 2021.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNOCK thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SENATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, a landmark report from the International Energy Agency says countries need to move faster and more aggressively to cut planet-warming pollution.

That is from the New York Times this morning. The International Energy Agency, for the first time, is recommending specific steps to accomplish the drastic cuts in carbon emissions that nearly every developed country has pledged to achieve. One of the principal recommendations is "the rapid phase-out of gasoline-powered vehicles."

It just so happens that this report lands on the same day that President Biden is in Michigan to celebrate the release of a new line of electric pickup trucks. As one of the best-selling cars in America, replacing gasoline pickups with electric pickups could save us huge amounts of carbon.

But we shouldn't stop there. Transportation still accounts for roughly one-third of America's carbon output. There is no way the United States can reduce its greenhouse gas emissions without looking out how Americans drive.

So I have put forward an ambitious, comprehensive proposal to accelerate our country's transition to zero-emis-

sion vehicles. We call it Clean Cars for America. The goal of that plan is that by 2040, all vehicles on the road should be clean. The International Energy Agency, by the way, recommends the world reach that target by 2050. So we beat them by 10 years, if this proposal goes into effect.

My plan would help us get there 10 years ahead of time. It is one of the many reasons that President Biden put Clean Cars for America at the heart of his American Jobs Plan, something I hope and expect he will discuss today in Michigan.

I want to thank the Biden administration. They have been open to many new ideas: the American Competitive Innovation Act that we will be debating today and Clean Cars for America, which they have more or less adopted in whole and put into their Build Back Better plan.

The benefits would be far-reaching, far beyond the subject of climate change. For a long time, critics have been saying you can't help the environment without hurting the economy or costing jobs. Not so, it is actually the reverse.

We negotiated the Clean Cars for America proposal with the unions, with the environmental groups, and with the auto companies, and all three are onboard. The good news is that Clean Cars for America would create tens of thousands of good-paying union jobs in battery manufacturing, construction, and auto making. Through targeted investments, it would put Americans to work all across the country building charging stations for a new fleet of electric cars. Right now, China leads the world in the electric vehicle market, overtaking us in 2015. We need to take back the initiative and create thousands upon thousands of good-paying jobs as we do.

I am very glad that the Biden administration has taken this proposal and adopted it. We worked, as I said, long and hard, for the first time on a major

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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